United Nations S/2017/256

Security Council

Distr.: General
27 March 2017

Original: English

Letter dated 24 March 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I am writing to you with reference to the letters of the Syrian regime's representative dated 17 February 2017 and 10, 11, 14 and 15 March 2017.

Turkey categorically refutes the fictitious and baseless allegations contained in the aforementioned letters and others to the same effect. These are futile efforts to distort the facts, manipulate reality and divert the international community's attention from the regime's brutal crimes against the people of Syria. The regime will never be allowed to wash its hands of the humanitarian catastrophe and extensive destruction it caused in Syria.

The Syrian regime, which has lost its legitimacy long ago, is the very root cause of all the problems emanating from the Syrian conflict.

Turkey has to cope with the most adverse effects of the conflict, in particular the Syria-based terrorism and forced displacement of the masses.

As underlined in our letter to the Security Council dated 24 August 2016 and issued under the symbol S/2016/739, Turkey has undertaken the necessary measures in response to the terrorist attacks carried out by DEASH, which has been directly and deliberately targeting Turkey, in exercise of the inherent right of self-defence as outlined in Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations.

The military operation we initiated against DEASH, which is being conducted within the scope of the Global Coalition against DEASH is essential in terms of ensuring our border and national security. Furthermore, it aims at maintaining the territorial integrity and political unity of Syria. In this regard, I would also like to recall the responsibility attributed to the member states in the fight against terrorism through Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001), 2170 (2014) and 2178 (2014), among others.

As long as threats to our national security continue, we will not hesitate to exercise our rights emanating from the international law.

I would be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Feridun H. **Sinirlioğlu**
Permanent Representative

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